Chicago Daily Tribune.

VOLUME XV. CHICAGO, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1861. NUMBER 138.

Butler would hardly have occurred, and it is the only sure way to prevent a recurrence of similar troubles hereafter with those powers that sympathise with the rebels. Better to lose life on the battle field than by slow fevers and devouring pestilence in hospitals and in camps—better to suffer occasional reverses than have our army demoralized by inaction. Surely the time for earnest work has come.

Important Bill.

We publish in to-day's TRIBUNE Senator Wilson's bill to provide for allotment certificates among the volunteer forces. The benefits to be secured are of that sort which bear few conspicuous records, but which make the difference of life and death, of happiness and misery, in many a soldier's family and home. The present bill seems well guarded. It provides that the paymaster-general assign one or more paymasters, now in service, to reside in each State to receive and distribute the allotments of volunteers to their families. The President, moreover, is to appoint three persons for each State, authorized to visit the several departments of the army and procure these allotments, these commissioners serving without pay.

The gentlemen who are pressing this matter to such an excellent conclusion, are doing the country more service than if they headed a brigade upon the field.

The British Gunboat Landrail.

The Halifax papers have just been in convulsions over an alleged insult to the British flag in the firing of the San Jacinto on the British gunboat Landrail. The latter reached New York on Friday last, and her commander, Thomas H. Martin, says that the only transaction out of which such a report could have grown, was the fact that he met the United States ship San Jacinto in the Gulf of Florida, which fired a *blank* shot to leeward and hailed the Landrail, which had no flag flying at the time. The commander of the San Jacinto courteously explained the object of his manœuvre, which was perfectly proper,—saying that he was seeking the privateer Sumter. Commander Martin did not regard the manœuvre as in the slightest degree insulting or improper, and disavows very emphatically the sentiments imputed to him by the Halifax papers.

THE ESCAPE OF THE SUMTER.

Her Operations on the High Seas.

Treachery of the Captain of the Iroquois.

The brig Thomas W. Rowland, 304 tons, Capt. D. Rowland, left St. Thomas on the 27th of November, and reached New York on Thursday night. She reports that the Sumter got to Martinique on the 17th of November, after a cruise. Had captured the ship Parks of Boston, from Bahia to the United States, southward of St. Thomas, in ballast. Took money, chains, and provisions and burned her. She also took schooner Daniel Trowbridge, from New Haven to the West Indies; threw overboard live stock and other cargo, until they came to the 200 barrels, and supplied themselves with beef and pork, and burnt her. The crew she took to Martinique and liberated them. The crew of the Joseph Parks were also landed at Martinique. One of the crew was brought home in the Rowland.

The U. S. steamer Iroquois left St. Thomas on the 16th of November, for Martinique, in search of the privateer Sumter who was reported lying at the port. The Sumter was found in the harbor fastened by eastern hawser to the rocks on the beach, and leaving seaward. She was taking on coal, which was brought in lighters. The Iroquois ran in close to her, but the French authorities warned the Iroquois that if she anchored they would detain her for 24 hours after the Sumter left. The Iroquois accordingly stood out to sea, and lay off and on at the mouth of the harbor, and would run in until her 10-inch gun was over the Sumter's deck, and each time the privateersmen were sent to quarters, and the deck was cleared for action.

The Sumter remained until Saturday night when, having repainted, coaled, and fitted her self up in prepared style, she passed the Captain of the Iroquois had agreed with the Captain of an American schooner in port, that if the former should express his desire of going to sea at night he would barn a blue-light. This Captain left before Saturday, and gave the instructions and blue-light to another American Captain. On Saturday word was brought on board the Iroquois that the Sumter intended to put to sea that night. About midnight the signal was given that the privateer was getting under way, and coming out to the southward. In place of going in that direction *the Iroquois was headed in the contrary direction, under a full head of steam, and off to get out of the way as fast as possible.* The crew assert that she steamed at the rate of 15 knots an hour; faster than she had ever done before. The vessel kept on this course for several hours, until a great offing having been made, she bore away for St. Thomas, without any attempt to find the privateer. She returned to that port on the night of Monday, and came to her old anchorage. When she was standing to the windward from Martinique, she passed a schooner, and the First Lieutenant suggested to the Captain that they should speak her, in hopes that she could give them some information of the privateer. The Captain, however, put him off, saying, "Tut! tut! No, sir! Head her away for St. Thomas." He then went below and turned in. The Captain told his officers that he was an old schoolmate of the Captain of the Sumter, and it would be unpleasant to attack him. The officers and crew of the Iroquois express the greatest indignation at the treachery of their Captain, and some of the officers were anxious to have the vessel which had been so wilfully disgraced.

There is not the slightest excuse for the Iroquois's Captain having refrained from an attack upon the Sumter, for his crew numbered 160 men, and the Sumter's only 90. The Iroquois has 6 guns, and the Sumter only 5, of lighter metal. There is no subordination on the privateer, each man doing pretty much as he chooses. The Iroquois's crew declare that they could have taken her without firing a gun, and that they could have cleared her decks with cutlasses alone, in fifteen minutes after boarding her.

To show the criminal treachery of the Captain of the Iroquois, it is only necessary to say that while he was standing off and on at the mouth of Martinique harbor, the Captain dispatched a schooner to St. Thomas for a load of coal and provisions, ostensibly that the night they had blockade the Sumter. This schooner reached St. Thomas on Saturday afternoon, took in her coal and provisions, and that night at 10 o'clock was towed to sea by a United States man-of-war that had just arrived from the East Indies on her way home. The war steamer, the name of which has not reached us, was ordered by the United States Consul at St. Thomas to tow the schooner to Martinique, and assist the Iroquois in taking the Sumter if necessary. The Sumter, however, effected her escape to Martinique on Monday night, 48 hours after the privateer left. On that night, at probably the same time, the Iroquois left *to look St. Thomas harbor*, having abandoned her post and allowed the Sumter to escape.

The closing of the ports of the world against the prizes of the pirates, has altered their plans, so that they now rob their prizes of charts, chronometers, and other instruments, ready money, provisions, and such other portable property as they need, and then burn the captured vessels to the water's edge. Her officers boasted that they had taken and destroyed 10 American vessels since she first went into commission. The Captain of the Sumter says he would treat our Captains well, so long as our Government dealt mildly with privateersmen, but if we hang their men, he would hang every American seaman who fell into his hands. The Sumter's officers are said to be out of repair, and she is not able to make more than nine knots per hour. Her officers had been buying all the winter clothing they could find in Martinique, as they are going to take the privateer to England to repair.

In Martinique, the rebels find many friends. The negroes were, of course, very hostile to the Confederates, and the authorities fearing that they would cut the Sumter's cables, had placed a guard of ten soldiers over it night and day to prevent their accomplishing their purpose. For these services the Captain had presented to J. B. Lawrence, mate of the T. W. Rowland, and to the Captain's wife. They say that it is matter of common report that the Iroquois allowed the privateer Jeff. Davis to escape, as she has the fastest.

The Allotment Bill.

The following bill has been offered by Senator Wilson, to provide for allotment certificates among the volunteer forces:

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

That to each State from which volunteers have been called into the service of the United States under the act of July twenty-two, eighteen hundred and sixty-one, entitled "An act to provide for the employment of volunteers to aid in enforcing laws and protecting public property," and the acts amendatory thereof, one or more paymasters, now in the service, shall be assigned by the Paymaster-General, who shall reside in such State, whose duty it shall be to receive from such volunteers their respective families or friends of such volunteers from said State such portions of the pay of said volunteers, respectively, as they may direct in pursuance of the above recited act.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That the President shall appoint for each State having volunteers in the service as aforesaid, three persons who shall be authorized by the President's commission to visit the several departments of the army in which their the several regiments of such volunteers from such respective States may be, and there procure said volunteers from time to time their respective allotments of their pay to their families or friends, duly certified in writing and by them, or by some commissioned officer of such department, attested in pursuance of such order as may be made for that purpose by the Secretary of War, and the said officers shall assist, so properly and attested, the said family or friends of the volunteer to receive the same and transmit the certificate of his pay as he may therein request.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That the persons appointed as commissioners as to carry into effect the preceding sections of this act shall receive no pay or compensation whatever from the treasury of the United States.

The Late Fight at Fort Pickens.

JAMES'S GUNS DECLARED USELESS AND THE FARRAGUT GUN RECOMMENDED.

The official report of General Harvey Brown relative to the brilliant fight at Fort Pickens, is crowded out of our columns this morning by the pressure of other matter. It is a plain, succinct and soldierly statement of the whole affair, and confirms it as an undoubted victory for the Union arms. Fort Pickens remains unhurt. Fort McRae was sadly sheltered by our fire, and the town of Warrington and part of the Pensacola Navy Yard were burned. Only six men in Fort Pickens were hurt. General Brown has suggested in his report several points gathered from his experience in this action, for which we make room, as follows:

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA, Fort Pickens, Dec. 9, 1861.

GENERAL—The bombardment of the 22d and 23d has elicited some facts that are of importance, and I notice them that we may in future profit by them.

First—That with the most efficient guns of the largest calibre and served in the best manner, no serious injury can be done to stone or brick walls, or to guns in sand batteries, or to troops serving them, unless probably by rifled guns, if properly protected, at a distance of from two thousand to three thousand yards.

Second—That shells and hot shot are not to be depended on for firing even wooden buildings, unless having in them incendiary composition.

Third—That pieces of port fire are nearly useless as such incendiary composition.

Fourth—That brick buildings covered with slate cannot be fired by either hot shot or shells at the distance named, unless by accident, unless the slates have rock fires.

Fifth—That the trouble and expense incurred in protecting forts by sand bag traverses, &c., is far more than repaid by the saving of the lives of the defenders.

Sixth—That no dependence is to be placed on James's rifle projectiles, either as it respects accuracy or range.

Seventh—That the 10-inch columbiads are efficient, and that forts should be immediately supplied with them and with a full supply of ammunition.

I would strongly urge that a dozen of Parrott's thirty-pounders, or, if to be had, of larger calibre, be sent to this post, with a good supply of ammunition, as early as possible. I find one which I found to be excellent, but when the navy met with such a mishap in the Mississippi I was compelled to let Pig Officer go from here at once one of my twelve pounder Parrott guns to put on one of his ships to save them from being driven out of the waters by a little steamer armed with a rifled gun on board.

HARVEY BROWN,
Colonel Commanding.

Brigadier General L. Thomas, Assistant Adjutant General, United States Army, Washington, D. C.

FROM CHEAT MOUNTAIN, VA.

Our Troops, Under Gen. Milroy, Attack the Rebel Stronghold and Clean them out.

PHILIPPI, Va., Dec. 16.—A force consisting of the 9th Indiana, and a detachment from the 14th Indiana, 27th Ohio, 3d and 5th Virginia regiments, and Riggs's and Bracken's cavalry, in all about 1,800 men, under command of Gen. Milroy, left Beverly on the 13th, for the purpose of driving the rebels from their fortified camp on the Allegheny Mountains. Our forces came in contact with the enemy drawn up in battle in front of their entrenchments, charged upon them and drove them back. A hot fire was kept up during the engagement of 2½ hours, and several brilliant charges were made by our men.

Gen. Milroy withdrew at nightfall, intending to renew the attack in the morning. During the night the rebels left their camp silently, burning everything they could not carry with them.

Our loss was 20 killed and 30 wounded. The rebel loss is believed to be not less than 150 killed, including one field officer. We have 50 prisoners.

By this last brilliant achievement General Reynolds's front has been cleared of the enemy, there being no organized rebel force within 20 miles of Cheat Mountain.

A detachment sent out from this place yesterday returned this evening with ten rebel guerillas, including the notorious Jack Bowers.

Rebel Outrages on Union Men in Central Missouri.

ST. LOUIS, Dec. 16.—Correspondence from Sedalia, dated the 15th inst., says every day brings accounts of fresh outrages committed upon Union men in Johnston and Lafayette counties. As many as thirty-five teams, with wagons containing household goods belonging to fugitives, were counted in one encampment.

A detachment from Colonel Eads's 27th Missouri regiment met with a skirmish on Saturday from Georgetown and around Knob Nester. They report the country around being fast overrun with men from Price's army. Jim Lane's rifle projectiles, either as it respects accuracy or range.

If I had had guns to be placed on Tyndall, I could have silenced the most of the enemy's sand batteries and the guns in Barrancas.

Second—That ships with their present armament cannot for an hour contend against rifled guns, and that if our navy is not at once supplied liberally with good rifled guns, it will be sadly regard the assumption of the Lincoln to in the slightest degree insulting or improper, and disavows very emphatically the sentiments imputed to him by the Halifax papers.

THE ESCAPE OF THE SUMTER.

Her Operations on the High Seas.

Treachery of the Captain of the Iroquois.

The brig Thomas W. Rowland, 304 tons, Capt. D. Rowland, left St. Thomas on the 27th of November, and reached New York on Thursday night. She reports that the Sumter got to Martinique on the 17th of November, after a cruise. Had captured the ship Parks of Boston, from Bahia to the United States, southward of St. Thomas, in ballast. Took money, chains, and provisions and burned her. She also took schooner Daniel Trowbridge, from New Haven to the West Indies; threw overboard live stock and other cargo, until they came to the 200 barrels, and supplied themselves with beef and pork, and burnt her. The crew she took to Martinique and liberated them. The crew of the Joseph Parks were also landed at Martinique. One of the crew was brought home in the Rowland.

The U. S. steamer Iroquois left St. Thomas on the 16th of November, for Martinique, in search of the privateer Sumter who was reported lying at the port. The Sumter was found in the harbor fastened by eastern hawser to the rocks on the beach, and leaving seaward. She was taking on coal, which was brought in lighters. The Iroquois ran in close to her, but the French authorities warned the Iroquois that if she anchored they would detain her for 24 hours after the Sumter left. The Iroquois accordingly stood out to sea, and lay off and on at the mouth of the harbor, and would run in until her 10-inch gun was over the Sumter's deck, and each time the privateersmen were sent to quarters, and the deck was cleared for action.

The Sumter remained until Saturday night when, having repainted, coaled, and fitted her self up in prepared style, she passed the Captain of the Iroquois had agreed with the Captain of an American schooner in port, that if the former should express his desire of going to sea at night he would barn a blue-light. This Captain left before Saturday, and gave the instructions and blue-light to another American Captain. On Saturday word was brought on board the Iroquois that the Sumter intended to put to sea that night. About midnight the signal was given that the privateer was getting under way, and coming out to the southward. In place of going in that direction *the Iroquois was headed in the contrary direction, under a full head of steam, and off to get out of the way as fast as possible.* The crew assert that she steamed at the rate of 15 knots an hour; faster than she had ever done before. The vessel kept on this course for several hours, until a great offing having been made, she bore away for St. Thomas, without any attempt to find the privateer. She returned to that port on the night of Monday, and came to her old anchorage. When she was standing to the windward from Martinique, she passed a schooner, and the First Lieutenant suggested to the Captain that they should speak her, in hopes that she could give them some information of the privateer. The Captain, however, put him off, saying, "Tut! tut! No, sir! Head her away for St. Thomas." He then went below and turned in. The Captain told his officers that he was an old schoolmate of the Captain of the Sumter, and it would be unpleasant to attack him. The officers and crew of the Iroquois express the greatest indignation at the treachery of their Captain, and some of the officers were anxious to have the vessel which had been so wilfully disgraced.

There is not the slightest excuse for the Iroquois's Captain having refrained from an attack upon the Sumter, for his crew numbered 160 men, and the Sumter's only 90. The Iroquois has 6 guns, and the Sumter only 5, of lighter metal. There is no subordination on the privateer, each man doing pretty much as he chooses. The Iroquois's crew declare that they could have taken her without firing a gun, and that they could have cleared her decks with cutlasses alone, in fifteen minutes after boarding her.

To show the criminal treachery of the Captain of the Iroquois, it is only necessary to say that while he was standing off and on at the mouth of Martinique harbor, the Captain dispatched a schooner to St. Thomas for a load of coal and provisions, ostensibly that the night they had blockade the Sumter. This schooner reached St. Thomas on Saturday afternoon, took in her coal and provisions, and that night at 10 o'clock was towed to sea by a United States man-of-war that had just arrived from the East Indies on her way home. The war steamer, the name of which has not reached us, was ordered by the United States Consul at St. Thomas to tow the schooner to Martinique, and assist the Iroquois in taking the Sumter if necessary. The Sumter, however, effected her escape to Martinique on Monday night, 48 hours after the privateer left. On that night, at probably the same time, the Iroquois left *to look St. Thomas harbor*, having abandoned her post and allowed the Sumter to escape.

The closing of the ports of the world against the prizes of the pirates, has altered their plans, so that they now rob their prizes of charts, chronometers, and other instruments, ready money, provisions, and such other portable property as they need, and then burn the captured vessels to the water's edge. Her officers boasted that they had taken and destroyed 10 American vessels since she first went into commission. The Captain of the Sumter says he would treat our Captains well, so long as our Government dealt mildly with privateersmen, but if we hang their men, he would hang every American seaman who fell into his hands. The Sumter's officers are said to be out of repair, and she is not able to make more than nine knots per hour. Her officers had been buying all the winter clothing they could find in Martinique, as they are going to take the privateer to England to repair.

In Martinique, the rebels find many friends. The negroes were, of course, very hostile to the Confederates, and the authorities fearing that they would cut the Sumter's cables, had placed a guard of ten soldiers over it night and day to prevent their accomplishing their purpose. For these services the Captain had presented to J. B. Lawrence, mate of the T. W. Rowland, and to the Captain's wife. They say that it is matter of common report that the Iroquois allowed the privateer Jeff. Davis to escape, as she has the fastest.

The Allotment Bill.

The following bill has been offered by Senator Wilson, to provide for allotment certificates among the volunteer forces:

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

That to each State from which volunteers have been called into the service of the United States under the act of July twenty-two, eighteen hundred and sixty-one, entitled "An act to provide for the employment of volunteers to aid in enforcing laws and protecting public property," and the acts amendatory thereof, one or more paymasters, now in the service, shall be assigned by the Paymaster-General, who shall reside in such State, whose duty it shall be to receive from such volunteers their respective families or friends of such volunteers from said State such portions of the pay of said volunteers, respectively, as they may direct in pursuance of the above recited act.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That the President shall appoint for each State having volunteers in the service as aforesaid, three persons who shall be authorized by the President's commission to visit the several departments of the army in which their the several regiments of such volunteers from such respective States may be, and there procure said volunteers from time to time their respective allotments of their pay to their families or friends, duly certified in writing and by them, or by some commissioned officer of such department, attested in pursuance of such order as may be made for that purpose by the Secretary of War, and the said officers shall assist, so properly and attested, the said family or friends of the volunteer to receive the same and transmit the certificate of his pay as he may therein request.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That the persons appointed as commissioners as to carry into effect the preceding sections of this act shall receive no pay or compensation whatever from the treasury of the United States.

THE LATEST NEWS BY TELEGRAPH.

ENGLAND'S WAR ALARM.

HOW THE NEWS IS RECEIVED.

EFFECT ON THE MARKETS.

POPULAR "GRIT" MANIFESTED.

DEBATES IN CONGRESS.

ANTI-SLAVERY PROPOSITIONS.

80,000 ARMS FOR CANADA.

Troops Reviewed at Cairo.

17,000 TROOPS IN LINE.

BUTLER'S VAN AT SHIP ISLAND.

SCARE AT NEW ORLEANS.

THE SUMTER AND IROQUOIS.

CHARLESTON YET BURNING.

FROM WASHINGTON.

[Special Dispatch to the Chicago Tribune.]

WASHINGTON, December 16, 1861.

Mr. Wilson's bill for the abolition of slavery in the District of Columbia provides for the immediate emancipation of all slaves in the District. Slave masters must, within ninety days, present their claims to three Commissioners, residents of Washington, appointed by the President, who are to receive $2,000 each, and who shall decide upon such claims and appraise the value of the slaves, in no case to exceed $300 apiece. The Commissioners are required, within nine months, to make a report, which is to be deemed full and conclusive in all respects, to the Secretary of the Treasury, who will pay the amounts adjudged due to each claimant.

The Investigating Committee's report, which will be made to-morrow, may indirectly censure Secretary Welles for allowing his brother-in-law (Geo. D. Morgan) to make ninety-five thousand dollars in purchasing vessels for the Navy Department.

Mr. Faulkner, who started this afternoon for Richmond, takes a hundred dollars, sent by Hon. Schuyler Colfax to Mr. Ely, for our sick and destitute soldiers who may have received nothing from their Northern friends. Mr. Faulkner says he has indirectly received information from Richmond which leads him to doubt whether Mr. Ely will be released in exchange. The difficulty is understood to be technical objections to giving up a prisoner of war, as they consider Ely to be, in return for a political prisoner like Faulkner. It is hoped that a remedy has been devised by which Ely's release is assured. Should it not be, Faulkner promises to return within thirty days from his departure from Fort Warren, and again be fêted and be-turkeyed by Boston Junkies.

In the diplomatic body this is regarded as a grave moment, in view of England's attitude. It is feared that she may demand the return of Mason and Slidell as peremptorily as to preclude negotiation, and lead to immediate hostilities. The Nashville is, however, some offset to the Trent. The Southern emissaries abroad have, according to English gentlemen just arrived, made most lavish promises to Europe.

Several Congressmen from New England went down the river to Budd's Ferry, on Saturday. As they were landing from small boats, the rebels opened fire, but hit nothing.

The Conway-Fouke difficulty stands thus: Mr. Conway desires to know whether the word "falsehood," in Fouke's remarks, as reported in the *Globe* on Friday, intended to be personally applicable to him. Mr. Fouke replied in a long, rambling speech, describing the battle of Belmont, but not making a direct answer to the question. Mr. Conway then said he had given the gentleman the amplest opportunity to remove the offensive imputation, but Fouke not having availed himself of the generosity, he (Conway) submitted whether he was not seeking a personal quarrel without cause, and whether such conduct was not that of a common bully and scoundrel. Mr. Fouke replied that Conway was a disgrace to the House and the country; and considerable sensation has been created in town by the affair. Mr. Conway will neither seek further quarrel nor avoid one. He has submitted the case to Gen. Jim. Lane, who holds Conway not bound to pursue the matter beyond its present *status*. As to the battle of Belmont, Conway referred to it in the first instance accidentally, on the strength of newspaper reports that it was a Federal defeat. Probably the affair will terminate here.

Officers of the Minnesota regiment fully confirm the statement of General Gorman's dragging negroes for attending to cell liquor in camp, notwithstanding the order of the regiment was in the daily practice of selling it to the soldiers.

Senator Wilson's bill abolishing slavery in the District of Columbia, appropriates one million dollars to compensate loyal owners. It receives the assent of several members of the Cabinet, including Chase; also, of numerous high army officers and influential members of Congress.

The military committee of the Senate will report adverse to Mr. Wilkinson's bill abolishing the distinction between the regular and volunteer forces, on the ground that its effect would be to make the whole army regulars; whereas our form contemplates a small standing army and a large volunteer force. Moreover, the bill is deemed unconstitutional.

The House bill for 20,000 Kentucky military police will probably not pass the Senate.

It is reported to-night that Gen. McDowell marched out on a foraging expedition, to-day, towards Fairfax, with 8,000 men and 100 wagons. He had some skirmishing, and subsequently entered Fairfax, finding only a few persons there.

LATER.—The advance to Fairfax was as follows: Gen. Wadsworth started at 2 o'clock this morning, with three regiments of infantry. He proceeded on the road from Fall's Church towards Fairfax. Simultaneously an expedition of a few regiments from Fitz John Porter's division, with a squadron of Averill's Pennsylvania cavalry, proceeded by another road. They went into Fairfax and found no enemy there. Wadsworth's Brigade got 72 wagon loads of forage. Gen. Porter's expedition also took a considerable quantity. The only fighting took place at a house where a secessionist was making signals to the enemy beyond. He (the rebel) was shot at 300 yards distance. No casualties on our side.

Gen. Augur to-day took command of the brigade formerly under Gen. Keyes.

FROM CAIRO.

[Special Dispatch to the Chicago Tribune.]

CAIRO, December 16, 1861.

The grand review and inspection of troops at Cairo, Bird's Point, and Fort Holt took place to-day, by Gen. Van Rensselaer, Inspector General, attended by Gens. Sturges, Sweeney, Grant, and McClernand. The troops at all points performed admirably. The force reviewed at Cairo was 8,000; at Bird's Point 6,000; and at Fort Holt 3,000. Gen. Van Rensselaer goes to Paducah to-morrow, and to Cape Girardeau on Wednesday, to inspect the troops.

Scouts were thrown out in a circle ranging from Belmont to Charleston, on Saturday night, without discovering any enemy.

Ministers of the Cause Jackson prisoners arrived here this morning from St. Louis, on their way to Dixie; hotel telegraphic dispatch was received by Gen. Grant that they had obtained their papers fraudulently, and not to pass them through. Whereupon Gen. Grant put them to work on the fortifications, where they will be kept until an opportunity to send them back occurs.

A Court Martial and Military Commission convenes here to-morrow.

Accounts from Columbus confirm the report that large numbers of sackers and heavy cable chains were received, for the purpose of throwing them across the river and obstructing navigation; also, 24 torpedoes or submarine batteries; to be planted in the river near Columbus. The new gunboat St. Louis has been thoroughly officered and has gone into commission.

P. S. A gentleman direct from Columbus, who has previously furnished us with valuable information, and who can be relied on, gives information that four regiments of infantry and three gunboats have been dispatched to New Orleans, where a battle was being fought, and the city threatened with demolition by our forces. The greatest excitement is said to prevail, the inhabitants fleeing in all directions. This movement from Columbus is the one expected to be made on the point on Friday last.

FROM ST. LOUIS.

[Special Dispatch to the Chicago Tribune.]

ST. LOUIS, December 16, 1861.

The war news from England creates a great deal of excitement here. Hostly anything else was talked about on 'Change. A more vigorous tone in favor of using negroes to put down the Southern rebellion is noticed among Union men. The feeling is generally in favor of sustaining our Government if it refuses to surrender Mason and Slidell. The scare was in high glee.

Passengers by the Pacific Railroad to-night, report the continued activity of our troops towards Lexington, mostly from Otterville. The secret is well kept by the officers.

The time for taking the oath of allegiance by State and County officers has expired. None of the Supreme Court Judges took the oath, and the entire Court will have to be re-appointed. Many Circuit Judges also failed, and the County Coroner of St. Louis, and many Justices of the Peace in St. Louis county. All the city officers, excepting D. H. Armstrong, City Commissioner, took the oath. About half the city officers have heretofore been set down as secessionists. Their taking the oath excites surprise.

There was an examination of runaway slaves confined in the county jail, to-day, by order of General Halleck, to ascertain the political status of their masters. General Halleck has not stated his intention regarding those owned by known disloyalists. It is noticable that all the officers of regiments or companies above Jefferson City, on the Pacific Railroad, have been ordered to rejoin them immediately.

Ex-Postmaster Hogan, who is under arrest for withholding money due the Government, publishes a card denying the justice of such an allegation, and professing to court a full investigation.

FROM QUINCY.

[Special Dispatch to the Chicago Tribune.]

QUINCY, December 16, 1861.

The train which left St. Joseph, this morning, for this city, was fired into when about four and a half miles west of Osborne, and about thirty miles from St. Jo. The outrage occurred before daylight, while the train was passing through a piece of timber and moving at the rate of thirty-five or forty miles an hour. Three seperate volleys were fired. At the first discharge sixteen balls struck the engine and tender. At the second fifteen struck the passenger coaches—of which there were two—and wounded a brakeman in the thigh, but not dangerously. At the third volley some balls rattled on the tops of the passenger coaches, but did no damage save to make more alarm. The rapid movement of the train is supposed to have saved the lives of such passengers as were seated at the windows, the dim light and the speed spoiling any accurate aim of the traitors. No windows were broken and no enemy was seen to a certainty. Stewartville is rather noted for rebellious proclivities.

FROM LOUISVILLE.

[Special Dispatch to the Chicago Tribune.]

LOUISVILLE, Dec. 16, 1861.

Information that is deemed reliable here, states that the rebels have been making extensive preparations for the passage of Rolling Green. The force at that point has been considerably increased. All the rolling stock of the roads from Nashville to Memphis have been employed in transporting troops north. It is estimated that the present force of Gen. Buckner is forty thousand.

The indications are that a great battle must ensue shortly. The preparations made in this department are of such a character as, it is hoped, to insure victory to our arms. All is quiet on the right wing.

Canonading was reported at Somerset, on Friday, but no definite information has been received here.

The report of the capture and wounding of Capt. Prime, of Buell's Staff, at Somerset, is now confirmed.

An attempt is being made by members of the Legislature to have Powell expelled by the National Senate, as a secessionist.

Kentucky will raise ten regiments of twelve months men for the defence and protection of the State. An agreement has been entered into similar to that made by the President with the loyal government of Missouri.

Reports state that Lexington is actually threatened by 2,000 rebels from Eastern Kentucky, who have overrun Wolfe and Morgan counties. West Liberty was taken by the rebels on Tuesday. The secessionists of Owingsville have ordered the Union men to leave, which the latter did. The Union men of Montgomery county were rallying at Mt. Sterling to oppose the rebels.

THE CHARLESTON CONFLAGRATION.

Further Accounts of the Insurrection and Burning.—The City Nearly Destroyed.

BALTIMORE, Dec. 14.—The Old Point boat brings the report of the discovery and prompt suppression by the military authorities of a formidable insurrection at the fort.

The account states that the plot was disclosed by the body servant of a military officer, who said that the negroes of the fort were to be joined by large bands from the country, who were to come in armed at night. He said the cash factory had been fired by a free negro whom he designated, and who has been arrested.

A small quantity of arms were found under the floors of the negro quarters. They were all new and in good condition. In another negro cabin knives and hatchets were found secreted. The greatest consternation prevailed. Families were closing and barring their windows. The fire companies being composed of men who were on military duty, the fire engines were seized by negroes, who broke and rendered useless the two best ones. The offices of the *Courier* and *Mercury* are said to be destroyed.

Another account states that the negro insurrection broke out in the interior of South Carolina two days before the fire, and is still raging unchecked; but this last report is not well authenticated.

BALTIMORE, Dec. 15.—We learn from the captain of the Norfolk boat that he was informed by the captain of the steamer Illinois, which had arrived at Old Point from Port Royal, that he passed within six miles of Charleston harbor at 10 o'clock on Tuesday night, and a tremendous conflagration was evidently at its height in that city. The reflection on the clouds exceeded anything he ever saw, and the whole bay was brightly illuminated. It did not appear like a reflection from smouldering ruins, but from a raging conflagration. This is later than the Norfolk *Day Book's* dispatch.

FORTRESS MONROE, Dec. 15.—The Norfolk *Day Book* gives the following startling intelligence from Branchville, South Carolina, 86 miles from Charleston, dated the 13th: "Passengers just arrived report a destructive fire at Charleston. There was a still breeze and little wind. The fire equalled the largest conflagration ever known on this continent."

Officer Shot by a Dubuque Woman.

DUBUQUE, Dec. 16.—A woman named Mrs. Harriet Stoker, living on Elm street, between 13th and 14th streets, shot Capt. Cole through the neck, yesterday morning about 8 o'clock, killing him instantly. The act was committed in self-defence, at her house. Conway is well known on the river. He was mate of the steamer Milwaukie last season.

The Sumter and Iroquois.

BALTIMORE, Dec. 16.—The bark Agnes has arrived here. She reports speaking the English brig Mary Morton, which reported that the Sumter and Iroquois had a severe engagement, and one of them, she did not know which, had put into Martinique to repair.

The Conway-Fouke Matter.

NEW YORK, Dec. 16.—Washington specials say a duel is about between Conway and Fouke. The latter insists on satisfaction.

THE PROCEEDINGS OF CONGRESS.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16, 1861.

SENATE.

Mr. GRIMES, of Iowa, presented a petition that in consequence of the present rebellion slavery be absolutely and unconditionally abolished.

Mr. TEKKEYCK, of New Jersey, offered a resolution that the present war is for the Union, according to the constitution; that the object of the war is to save the former and enforce the latter; that it was so in the beginning and should be so till the last; that measures, extreme, radical and disruptive in themselves, involving in a consequence the national and disloyal, should not be resorted to; and that in suppressing treason, the Government cannot prove traitor to the organic law of the land. Laid over.

Mr. HALE, of N. H., offered a resolution that the Committee on Military Affairs inquire into the expediency of providing a uniform manner for dealing with the slaves of the rebels, and those made prisoners, or escaping from their masters. Agreed to.

Mr. LANE, of Ind., offered a resolution that the Committee on the Judiciary be requested to provide a law, so that the sisters of treason may be prevented from bringing suits for the collection of debts in the courts of the U. S. Agreed to.

Mr. SUMNER, of Mass., offered a resolution that the Committee on Patents, inquire if any additional legislation is necessary to secure to persons of African descent the right to take out patents. Agreed to.

Mr. WILKINSON, of Minn., offered the following preamble and resolution:

WHEREAS, Jesse D. Bright, Senator from Indiana, did, on the 1st of March last, write a letter to Jeff. Davis, (a letter was here read introducing a Mr. Lincoln to Mr. Davis, as having an interest in fire arms,) and whereas such letter is evidence of disloyalty, therefore

Resolved, That Jesse D. Bright be expelled from the Senate of the United States.

Mr. COWAN, of Pennsylvania, moved the reference of the subject to the Committee on Judiciary.

Mr. SUMNER said he should introduce a French spoliation bill soon.

Mr. BRIGHT, of Indiana, made a few remarks in his own defence, in reply to a resolution to inquire into his conduct.

Adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

A personal explanation occurred between Messrs. Conway, of Kansas, and Fouke, of Illinois, during which Mr. Conway charged Fouke with a deliberate purpose to fabricate a personal collision without cause, and asked whether such conduct was not only unworthy a member of this House, but characteristic rather of a blackguard and scoundrel? [Sensation.]

Mr. FOUKE, of Illinois, wanted to say one word in reply.

Mr. STEVENS, of Pennsylvania, and others, objected. They had had enough of such things.

The SPEAKER informed Mr. Fouke that no debate was in order.

Mr. FOUKE, amid the cries of "order," was understood to say that Mr. Conway was a disgrace to the nation and humanity.

There the matter ended in the House.

The House passed the bill to strike out from the pension roll the names of all persons who have taken up arms against the Government, or who have in any manner aided the rebellion.

Mr. VALLANDIGHAM, of Ohio, introduced a preamble and resolution as follows:

WHEREAS, The Secretary of the Navy has reported to this House that Capt. Carpenter, in command of the San Jacinto, an armed public vessel of the United States, did, on the 8th Nov. 1861, on the high seas, commit the act of firing a shot across the bow of the British mail steamer, and forcibly remove therefrom James M. Mason and John Slidell, disloyal citizens, fleeing from the country to escape the just and dangerous men, who, with their suite, were on their way to England as agents and envoys of the insurrection, claiming to be ambassadors from the pseudo Confederate States; and

WHEREAS, The Secretary of the Navy has further reported to this House that the prompt and decisive action of Capt. Wilkes on this occasion, manifested the approval of the Government of the United States, and moreover, in a public letter has thanked Capt. Wilkes for the same; and

WHEREAS, This House on the first day of the session did propose to tender the thanks of Congress to Capt. Wilkes for his prompt, schools and patriotic conduct in the arrest of traitors, and,

WHEREAS, further on the same day, This House did recount the arrest of the said J. M. Mason and John Slidell in the cells of convicted felons until certain official demands of the United States, captured and held by the so-called Confederate States, should be treated as prisoners of war, therefore,

Resolved, As the sense of this House, that it is the duty of the President to now firmly maintain the act of Capt. Wilkes, in spite of any menace or demand of the British Government, and this House pledges its full support to him in upholding now the honor, and vindicating the course, of the Government and people of the United States against a foreign power.

Mr. VALLANDIGHAM moved the previous question. They had heard the last growl of the British lion. It remained to be seen who would cower.

Mr. FENTON, of New York, hoped the resolution would be referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

Mr. VALLANDIGHAM remarked that a former resolution in reference to Capt. Wilkes had passed without being so referred. He (Vallandigham) had offered this resolution in good faith, and would stand by it.

The House then refused to second the demand for the previous question.

Mr. FENTON again moved that the Preamble and Resolutions be referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and the motion was agreed to by yeas 109, nays 13. The House resumed the consideration of the bill authorizing the raising of a volunteer force for the better defence of Kentucky.

Mr. LOVEJOY, of Illinois, hoped the bill would not pass. According to the official returns we have a standing army of between six hundred to seven hundred thousand men, which is amply sufficient for the war. We have more soldiers now than can be fed. The raising of 30,000 volunteers for 12 months, instead of for the war, should not be authorized. He did not understand that the military authorities had asked for this increase; besides, he was opposed to the mode of raising them.

Mr. RICHARDSON, of Illinois, trusted the bill would pass. The volunteers proposed to be raised in Kentucky were of the best blood and familiar with fire arms. The operations was at Louisville, and 30,000 more men were necessary to guard the base of the line in which our army will operate.

Mr. WICKLIFFE, of Kentucky, said Kentucky has furnished a quota of 27,000 men. He repeated what he said the other day, namely, that before he introduced the bill he mentioned the subject to the Secretary of War, and also consulted the President, who together with his Cabinet, he was informed, approved of the measure. As Mr. Lovejoy's opposition, he knew that gentleman would vote against any thing but what related to negroes. In the course of his remarks Mr. Wickliffe said that the Governor of Kentucky had to take possession of Columbus, we will require every soldier that can be brought into the field to retake the pass and march on Tennessee. The volunteers will not be required to serve in Kentucky alone; but to fight wherever an enemy can be found; and they will do so. He (Wickliffe) entered his protest against making a regular army out of these more than 600,000 volunteers. The gentleman from Illinois (Lovejoy) was at the battle of Bull Run, and must have seen we have not men enough. The decisive battle in this campaign must be fought in Kentucky, and when fought he wanted the highways protected.

Mr. STEVENS, of Penn

The Tribune.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1861.

OUR CURRENT DOCUMENT.

"In time of peace prepare for war," is a good old adage, the philosophy of which has been exemplified both to our cost (*vide* transactions of Secretary Floyd) and to our honor and profit, when our volunteer companies were ready at the first tap of the drum to march and defend successfully our capital and borders. The fact is one of history that had it not been for a few thousand of volunteers, "armed and equipped as the law directs," the city of Washington would either have been in the hands of traitors or a heap of ruins—possibly both. Had it not been for our volunteer companies (the nucleus around which so many glorious regiments have been formed) the material which converts raw recruits into soldiers would have been sadly more deficient than it now is.

We have, as a State, between seventy and eighty thousand men in the service of Uncle Sam! But how are we, as a city, keeping up and encouraging the "solidarity" of our citizens? At the commencement of this rebellion our city military would compare favorably with that of any city in the Union. The major part of the Zouave Cadets were then in our midst—all honor to them and ELLSWORTH. That they have made good use of their military knowledge, the *drill* of regiments all over the States will show; the Light Guard, whose rank and file, once commanded by our present Commander-in-Chief, McClellan, is now diffused throughout the grand army of the United States; the Chicago Light Artillery, who so nobly did their duty at Belmont, "and more too," when then they first went to Cairo; and last, but not least, the Shields, Montgomery, Highland and Emmett Guards, whose deeds of heroism under LYON at Wilson's Creek (for some of the members of the above companies were there!) and under MULLIGAN at Lexington, have won for them imperishable renown. All those were Chicago institutions, and the honor they have and will further win casts a glory on Chicago.

The absence of the patriots whose names once filled the roll-calls of the above companies have caused these organizations to become "things of yore," and if our young men do not rally and fill up the ranks of these companies they will cease to be a living reality in our midst.

We cannot to-day, with a population of 120,000, turn out a full company even to do escort duty to those brave hearts and willing hands who are almost daily leaving our city for the stern realities of war. This should not be. There are hundreds of young men in our city who waste their evenings, which they might, with a positive physical benefit to themselves, devote to the drill room, so that should it be necessary to raise 500,000 more men to crush this unholy rebellion, or repulse a foreign foe, Chicago may be able to send her quota, not of raw recruits, but of trained and disciplined soldiers.

Young men of Chicago, you have a duty to perform in this matter. All of you who are able to bear arms ought to be ready and willing, if necessity demands it, to "fall in" as soldiers of the Republic. We know not what the future may bring forth; the despots of the Old World may arraign themselves against us; a military autocracy may threaten our liberty; reverses may decimate or destroy our forces now in the field. If either or any of these possibilities become facts, would not our citizens, many of them, wish that "in time of peace they had prepared for war?"

COLLECTION OF SOUTHERN DEBTS.

The important question first opened practically by Judge Freese in his capacity of Provost Marshal of Alexandria, touching the collection from Southern rebels of debts due loyal Northern creditors, was arrested while in full operation, by its being deemed an illegal innovation in the functions of a military court. The process was a seizure of the goods, the court as Assignee securing from the proceeds the rights of Northern merchants. Numerous cases sprung up at once, and the plan was hailed by the commercial interest as opening the way for an adjustment of Southern claims, many of them deliberately accrued with a design of subsequent shelter in secession and non-payment. Even in the limited jurisdiction of the Provost Marshal of Alexandria the amount of claims was large, and the sums at issue in Judge Freese's decisions were daily increasing.

An order from Gen. McClellan put an end to operations of this class temporarily, awaiting the more formal introduction in all our Military Courts of some similar system, duly authorized and instituted. And thus the matter has remained since that time.

This question of securing the rights of Northern creditors against rebel debtors, is a most important one, and especially on the eve of formidable movements which are destined to pass border lines, and locate the jurisdiction of Military Courts in the rebellious States. The necessity increases with the advance of our arms towards the Gulf. The amount due Northern creditors in the South is estimated as high as two and a half million dollars. And the West, if not equally with the greater commercial marts of the East, is as truly interested in the adoption of some system that shall completely meet the demands of the case. The loyal people of the country will have suffered losses enough even when the utmost possible realization of rebel effects can be been made in their favor, as can only be done by Military Courts, where the rebellion is suspended and crushed out the functions of the Judiciary.

Justly enough, this formed a prominent and well considered suggestion of the President's Message, and it is probable that it will take a tangible and effective form at an early day. It is understood that the views of the Attorney General have been given advisedly to the establishment of this branch of the Military Courts, holding that Congress could not, under the Constitution, extend the powers of a Military Court so as to give it civil jurisdiction. Though Mr. Bates has never denied the justice and equity of Judge Freese's action as Provost Marshal of Alexandria, in behalf of Northern creditors, he denies the right of the military to interfere in the matter at all.

The whole subject has been referred to Congress by the President in his Message and thence may be confidently expected action that shall cover a case one of the anomalies of this war, but a not spreading and important. It is understood that Mr. Bingham, of the Judiciary Committee, holds that there is no limitation under the Constitution to the civil power, as applicable to these cases, but he holds that there is a constitutional power to meet such an emergency as has now arisen in the country, and there is no doubt that very soon the result of the reference to the Committee will be given to the country, in a temporary substitute for the ordinary courts in insulted States.

Railroad to Washington.

The project for a direct national railroad between New York and Washington meets with much favor from every quarter. And (this there is every reason to believe in its being started late ahead. All seems long the military movements of the Government have been seriously impeded by the slow coach monopoly of the New Jersey and Baltimore railroads. Troops have been for being at twenty-two hours on the way; freight time weeks to get forward, and "coal" (just what and a rebel blockade have caused to appear the Potomac the day in attaining coal supplies in increased proportionately with the pressure upon roads that reduce to single their capacity. A direct national road is wanted, and then the Government may be independent of their monopolies, and the traveling public secure, no longer, the pay require tax that goes into the treasuries of New Jersey and Maryland. The legislatures of those States may not, indeed, charter other lines, but Congress has full power in the premises, under that clause of the Constitution which gives it authority to build military roads; and there is an abundance of capital ready to be embarked in such an enterprise without a dollar being drawn from the public treasury. Congress can do few things which would meet with a more hearty popular response than to sanction what is so clearly needful to promptly place at the disposal of the Government, in every emergency, the inexhaustible material resources of the great North.

Col. Jennison.

Those of our readers who have, with any degree of fatherliness, followed our full Kansas correspondence will not fail to have detected from behind a full refutation of the aspersions that lukewarm patriots and half-secessionists are prone to cast upon this commander, these making him out to be but the leader of a band of marauding highwaymen and banditti, eager only for spoils, little caring who are the victims. Colonel Jennison's policy is to draw the line strictly and find out who are the Union men and who are the secessionists. Those who refuse the oath are caused to pay for expenses of the war. He looks upon this war as precipitated upon the country by those who have deliberately plotted for the destruction of the Government. His view is that there are but two parties, the friends and the enemies of the Union. His province is to sift them out, and protect Union men while he scourges the rebels. Is not this right? The highest proof that Colonel Jennison has strictly observed all the rules of honorable warfare is the fact that he has received for himself and the First Kansas Cavalry the most marked testimonials of favor and approval from his superior officers. Recently General Hunter has attached to his command three infantry regiments with which he was to be dispatched to a new field in Western Missouri. With officers like him the rebellion is not safe, nor the rebels themselves unharmed.

"There is Corn in Egypt."

The ladies of Mecca, Southern Illinois, who are organized as a soldiers' aid society, themselves gathered a load of corn, last week, given them by the farmers, drove it to town, and sold it at auction (a young lady being auctioneer), at four cents above the market price; the money to go for supplies for sick and wounded soldiers. There's the true grit for you.

Camp Butler not Paid Off.

A correspondent at Camp Butler, Springfield, corrects our statement, derived from the *Journal* of that city, that the troops at Camp Butler were being paid off. He says the paymaster, though long looked for and earnestly desired, had not arrived at last accounts; or at least the boys had not seen him.

Sickness in the Camps.

The mortality in our army from camp sickness is probably more than double the casualties of war, and there is now an amount of sickness in the camps that it would be almost impossible to estimate. There are regiments on the Potomac that have not enough well men to take proper care of the sick. Out of 5,000 troops in General Crittenden's Federal brigade at Calhoun, Ky., fully 1,000 are sick. The surgeons of the regiments at Port Royal report about one-tenth of their force as unfit for duty. There are 2,000 sick soldiers (principally typhoid fever) in the hospitals at Louisville. The Government, on account of the pressure upon its Washington hospitals, has opened hospitals at Philadelphia, with accommodations for about 1,200 patients. These are only instances of the extent of sickness in the army. A fair proportion being one in twenty, would give for our grand army of half a million men in the field at least 25,000 men as the number unfit for duty, from causes more or less serious.

Kentucky Military Expenses.

The Kentucky Legislature has received the report of the Military Board, which shows that up to the 1st of December there had been 28,881 volunteers mustered into regiments other than those commenced prior to the organization of the Board; including which, the aggregate of the enlistments would be some 25,000. The Board have borrowed a million and a half of dollars from the banks, ($500,000 from the Bank of Kentucky, $250,000 from the Northern Bank, $250,000 from the Farmers' Bank, etc.,) and have expended all but $146,000 of it in the outfit and payment of troops. The Board have arranged for further advances from all the banks. They have ordered 17,000 suits of clothing and 30,000 overcoats, to meet the necessities of the time. The regiments are now nearly all in the field, and others that have not entered the service are being consolidated. Several questions having arisen relative to these consolidations, the parties aggrieved are referred to the Legislature.

Fires and Loss of Life.

At Providence, R. I., last week Thursday, a tenement house near Thurston & Gardner's works, was destroyed by fire, caused by a child's lighting a match, and two children of Patrick Conly, (a soldier of the 3d regiment) were burned to death, and Mrs. C. badly injured in endeavoring to save them.

At Keene, N. H., on Thursday, three children of Walter Spear being left alone in the house, the younger one crept upon the table, upset a Kerosene lamp, and this one and an elder child were burned to death.

☞ The N. Y. *Journal of Commerce* of the 12th inst., contains a long communication relative to the Farm mortgages along the line of the Racine & Mississippi Railroad, through Winnebago, Stephenson and Carroll counties, in Illinois, from the State line to the terminus at Savannah, on the river. The case is similar to that along the line of the LaCrosse & Milwaukee, the road hopelessly bankrupt, and in the hands of the bondholders, and the holders of the mortgages have to their mortgagors themselves. In many cases the mortgagors have commenced proceedings in our State Courts for the purpose of vacating the mortgages, and bringing suits against the railroad company, but no decree has as yet been rendered, according to the writer in question, who adds: In a few exceptional cases the mortgagors are solvent, and able to pay the whole claim. In most cases, however, the mortgagors have little to offer, and the holders of the mortgaged premises. In almost every case the property mortgaged is of less value than the amount of the note which it was given to secure. The property was appraised at a time when all real estate was extravagantly high, and in many, in fact in most cases, the agents to procure the subscription were the appraisers of the property mortgaged.

☞ The recent spark of disturbance in the House of Representatives, to which editorial reference was made in our last issue, the news item accompanying is being inadvertently omitted, took place in the course of debate upon the question of Military Investigations, in which Mr. Conway of Kansas characterized the Belmont affair as a rebel victory. This was sharply resented by Mr. Yoake of Illinois, to whom Mr. Conway as sharply responded. Mr. Richardson of Illinois said that elsewhere was a proper place for the adjustment of personal difficulties. The late report was that friends of both parties were trying to adjust the affair amicably. This should be the first, last, and only instance of the kind this present session. The danger of the Government, in the name of humanity and decency, should keep our legislators from private personal squabbles. As to the Belmont affair, we conceive trust we are to have no more victories that require a labored argument to prove them such.

☞ "Ah! I am very sorry for this rebellion; it prevents my going South," said an Englishman the other day, dining at a club in Philadelphia by invitation. "They tell me," he continued, "that the American gentlemen is only to be found at the South. How is that, pray? Can you explain it?" "I cannot," replied his host; "it is no more to be explained than the statement so often made that there are gentlemen in England, but that none of them ever come to this country."

☞ The Washington *Republican* entertains the veto of the House laying Mr. Forney's motion on the table, that it was caused by Frank Blair's interpretation of Gen. Halleck's order, and "must not be deemed to indicate any disposition of that body to sanction the surrender of fugitive slaves by the officers of its army. A large majority of the Republicans voted for the resolution, and those who did not, disclaimed any purpose to countenance the practices of army officers, to which both were so justly condemned of."

☞ The Government needs several thousand seamen to man the numerous navy vessels now fitting out. It is thought that large numbers of the Dover Fast fishermen, just now returning from their summer cruises, will enlist. Will not the appeal fall upon willing ears? Is there a seaport worthy the hardy tars just being released, by the close of navigation, from the commerce of our lakes?

☞ The Republicans of Connecticut have called a State Nominating Convention, to meet at Hartford, January 16th, and throw wide open the door for all Union men to participate with them.

☞ The Western Armed Flotilla.—The Quartermaster's Department has asked Congress for an appropriation of $1,600,000 in addition to the $2,100,000 voted at the former session, to meet the expenses incurred for the armed flotilla on the Western waters.

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

TALES OF A GRANDFATHER—HISTORY OF SCOTLAND. By SIR WALTER SCOTT. Vol. I. Chicago: S. C. Griggs & Co. Boston: Gould & Lincoln. 1 vol. 12mo. pp. 376.

The volumes before us complete the History of Scotland; and as it is published uniform with the splendid edition of the Waverly Novels, it will form a most acceptable present for the holidays. Parents and guardians will find it just the thing to put in the hands of their children and wards, as the History of Scotland affords some of the brightest examples of patriotic devotion to high moral principles that can be found in the annals of our race. Clothed in the classic language of Sir Walter, and adorned by the rich drapery of his vivid imagination, the facts in these volumes have all the bewitching interest of a novel, while they prompt to the noblest aspirations. The loftiest patriotism animates the souls of these Scotch heroes, and the youth of our land cannot be better employed than by studying these examples, for according to present prospects, we shall need a race of warriors to maintain the liberties and the time honored institutions of our country. Let the work have a sale commensurate with its merits.

NOTES ON THE SURGERY OF THE WAR IN THE CRIMEA, with Remarks on the Treatment of gun-shot wounds. By GEO. H. B. MACLEOD, M. D., F. R. C. S., Edinburgh. Chicago: S. C. Griggs & Co.; Chicago: S. C. Griggs & Co., No. 39 and 41 Lake street.

For the army surgeons this is an invaluable work, and every one of them should procure a copy and study it carefully, at the earliest possible moment. In fact the entire medical profession and the intelligent public will find it a most valuable work. The causes which promoted the health or produced the diseases in the army in the Crimea; the effects and the treatment of gun-shot wounds in all parts of the system, are all treated in a masterly manner. We repeat that all army surgeons should at once study the work.

A Query.

MESSRS. EDITORS: In case of a war with England, what would become of money deposited with Canada Bank Agencies? What about Canada bank issues in such a contingency? The channels of circulation are being gorged with it, and the volume is not likely to grow less. What think you? C.

Canadian Military Preparations.

ENROLLMENT OF TROOPS.—The London *Times* calls upon the Canadian authorities to enroll and drill 100,000 men this winter, and the Montreal *Gazette* says if the Canadian Government but gives the proper encouragement and the work is entered upon with proper spirit, it can be done.

DRILLING.—Notices of the drill of the 47th regiment on the Champ de Mars, near Montreal, is given in the Montreal papers.

ENGINEERS.—A detachment of royal engineers left Quebec for Toronto on Monday week. They took with them gun carriages for the new batteries at Toronto.

ON THE MOVE.—Lieutenant-General Sir Fenwick Williams, K. C. B., with Capt. De Winton, A. D. C., and Capt. Grant, A. D. C., of his staff, paid a visit to Collingwood on the 9th inst., for the purpose of having that place put in a state of defence, and giving directions for the construction of two batteries for the harbor, one to be located at or near the old Hurontario Mills, about a mile to the eastward of the town, and the other on one of the group of islands known as the "Hen and Chickens," about three miles from shore to the westward. A naval depot is to be established at Collingwood.

FORTIFICATIONS AT TORONTO.—Men are busily engaged on the fortifications at Toronto. Ten 64 pounder guns reached that place from Quebec, lately, and are to be mounted on the embankments in course of construction.

TWO REGIMENTS COMING.—Mr. Cunard, of the well known steamship line, says the Montreal *Witness*, passed through Montreal on Friday afternoon for Quebec, at the request, it is understood, of the Canadian Government. The 62d and another regiment are to be sent to Upper Canada, from Halifax, forthwith; and it is surmised that some arrangement will be made with the Cunard Company to bring up these troops as far, at least, as Riviere du Loup before the close of navigation.

THE 30TH REGIMENT.—The 30th regiment of regulars is quartered at Toronto.

NAVAL BRIGADE IN TORONTO.—The *Globe* states that there is a brisk movement on foot to establish a naval brigade in Toronto. The Royal Canadian Yacht Club has taken the initiative in the matter, and the Secretary has already secured a large number of names of persons who purpose joining. The members intend to apply immediately to the Government to supply them with some heavy guns for practice.

MILITIA MOVEMENTS.—Under a general order from headquarters at Quebec, dated 8th inst., the following new corps are authorized and accepted: The 8th company, at Quebec; a volunteer company of engineers at Quebec; a rifle company at Ottawa; two companies of rifles at Lennoxville; a rifle company at Toronto, and another at Hemmingford. A field battery has been formed at Port Colborne. The 1st (or Prince of Wales) regiment of rifles must have nearly full ranks, as promotions are published in Company No. 9. Lastly, "Hy. Chapman, gentleman," has been promoted to the Adjutancy of the "Montreal Sedentary Cavalry."

Gen. Lockwood and the Turkeys.

Gen. Henry H. Lockwood, who commanded the expedition into Accomac county, can be spared from troubling himself farther in defence of this Government. He made a failure of the whole thing, unless it be excepted that he succeeded admirably well in showing himself to be an unmitigated failure. We have already noticed his anxiety for his hat. Here is how he looked out for the turkeys:

"Quite a lucrious scene transpired in the camp of the Michigan Sixth yesterday, in which our Brigadier General played a prominent part. It seems that the General was treating himself to an airing in his carriage, when he came upon the road with a decapitated turkey in his hand. The General stopped him, inquired where he belonged, and was particularly anxious to know all about the matter. The soldier told him that the bird was chased it, and the General drove off apparently satisfied. But the turkey lay heavily on his mind. He could not imagine how a private could honestly possess a turkey; and if a soldier could so far forget himself as to 'purvey' a fowl of such magnificent proportions, especially while being furnished by the Government with so rich a diet as sweet potatoes, he ought to be made an example of. The General drove off to the camp of the Michigan boys, but during the meantime worked himself up into a fu-rious rage, swearing that, if found, the soldier should be shot, and ordered an investigation. The companies were all paraded, and the search began, the General making the rounds with the company officers. The Michigan boys were stupified with astonishment at first, but finally the General was startled by the bobbing of a turkey in his rear. He turned his head to look for the offender, when another clever imitation of a turkey-cock was heard in front, and then a perfect storm of turkey calls, cock-a-doodle-doos, the hissing of geese, and other specimens of barn-yard vocalism broke out all over the camp. The General beat a retreat, and, on going out at the gate, found a pole erected, on which were conspicuously placed fifteen or twenty turkey, chicken and geese heads.

No Famine in Ireland.

There are some reasons for believing that the reports of such deficient crops in Ireland as would cause a famine there are greatly exaggerated. Sir Robert Peel, Chief Secretary for Ireland, who has recently made an extended tour of the island, said in a speech at Belfast:

"I can confidently assert that the reports and rumors which have been circulated about a famine in this country have been greatly exaggerated. I speak on the authority of personal observation. I leave those who can write in secluded districts of Connaught the sacred refreshing, if they are not as fallacious to be true. In Sligo, in Donegal, I hear very different accounts from those which I had been led to believe, and from personal observation in Mayo and Galway, and from letters I have received, I am assured that neither of the kind that is alleged exists. Of course, I am ready to admit, with every gentleman in the room, that there has been a considerable failure in the potato crop, and that food will be dear, but a scarcity of food is not necessarily a famine, and it is very easy to understand the interested motives of some who are anxious to gain public applause by a feigned zeal for the public in circulating about the exaggerated rumors. Now, I must say, so far as myself am concerned, I do not find that these apprehensions are in any way likely to be realized."

☞ The Toledo *Blade*, of the 12th, says there are now standing thirteen hundred and eight hundred barrels, in bulk, of freight, principally potatoes, to go forward to a market, in the depot of the Toledo, Wabash and Western Railroad Company, brought in over that line. This is over three hundred car loads, and is the accumulation of two weeks, since the closing of navigation.

☞ The Republicans of Connecticut have called a State Nominating Convention, to meet at Hartford, January 16th, and throw wide open the door for all Union men to participate with them.

☞ The Western Armed Flotilla.—The Quartermaster's Department has asked Congress for an appropriation of $1,600,000 in addition to the $2,100,000 voted at the former session, to meet the expenses incurred for the armed flotilla on the Western waters.

FROM PORT ROYAL.

Mr. Montague on Fortifying—Gen. Sherman at the Outposts—*What Dixie's Land is like*—Drilling in the Negroes—Shooting their own overseers—Troops—Harnessing Ponies—Rebel Deserters—Rebel Prisoners—Head of the Trunk Secession—Forty-fathom Wells of Troops—The Climate.

[Special Correspondence of the Chicago Tribune.]

PORT ROYAL, S. C., December 8th.

Since my last nothing of importance has transpired in this Division, except that such movements are being made in the way of erecting buildings and fortifications as would induce the most superficial observer to believe that we are preparing for winter quarters and a great military depot for good purpose. The troops have been waiting expectant for the order to advance into the country; but an advance at present does not seem to be in the programme of our leader. He is reported to have answered a member of the Cabinet at Washington, in reply to a hint to advance, that "if they wish an advance made before he is ready to make it, that they must send some one else to take his place."

We learn from the Southern papers, which you have doubtless seen, that the enemy are making all possible preparations for a vigorous defence—erecting batteries at all necessary points, drafting in all who will not volunteer, urging, coaxing, threatening, worrying. Nothing seems to annoy them so much—if we can judge from the tone of the Southern press, and their conduct as reported by the contrabands who daily escape from them—as the course the negroes take in *agitating* to follow their masters in the general melee.

The papers recommend the use of *lavalry* to scour the country and drive them in, or "*use negroes to prevent their escape to the enemy.*" Rather significant that, in connection with the fact currently believed here, by the unanimous report of fugitives either, that the rebels are slaughtering without mercy all whom they catch attempting to fly to our protection.

Cotton houses, corn houses and buildings are being burned by the slaveholders, and they likewise threaten to lay their towns in ashes on the approach of the Union forts. I do not remember whether in my last I acquainted you with the fact that several of the soldiers at Fort Walker were shot for refusing to fight, or rather for declaring that they would not fight. This was before our arrival. Two or three are believed to have been shot down by their officers the day of our victory, and during the time they were building the works, an average of fifty men were at work with ball and chain, for attempting to escape. These were the non-slaveholding recruits, called "crackers," who were forced into the Southern army; and that the *Southern army is full of such*, I do not the least doubt. Much must be deducted from the statements of the negroes, but not so much in matters of this sort as you may imagine. On all points which could be tried and tested and compared with known facts, they have been strangely truthful.

While in occupancy of the Seabrook plantation, with our company, during the past week, I had long conversations with "Billy," the body servant of an officer of the Beaufort Guerillas, who were posted on the Island. He is intelligent and smart—a mulatto. By the way, I had underrated the general intelligence of the negroes here. Even the field hands have ideas of their own as to how, why and wherefore they make common cause, and what "Billy" hears read from the newspapers at his master's table, becomes common property in the "quarters" with Gumbo and Cuffee, within twenty-four hours. all hints, all expressed mistrust, even hidden fear on the part of hints inscrutiously exposed is caught by the watchful ears of men and women who have long hoped and looked for an event like the present. Even the looks and actions of confident masters are translated by the watchful eye of supposed trusty servants, and are promulgated among their fellows. Talk of "*trusty* servants who will fight for their masters!" the thing is a monstrous absurdity. If such people exist among the slaves, they do not exist in Southern Carolina. There is no such thing. Pinckney, after his hasty flight from Seabrook, returned on learning that his buildings, some full of corn and cotton. Owned Pinckney Island, which lies right opposite the Seabrook place, and we made visits there. Found there the Plantations working about 400 slaves.) His *trusty* negro William, who had driven on Espestango plantation for years, and whom he had taken with him to the main, discouraged him by saying "The Yankees are all around the Island, master, and they will catch you; let me go." He was supplied with full instructions in regard to ascertaining our force, and how to proceed, &c., &c., much of which he detailed to his old Master. Mr. William was not seen since. "I am old," said William to me, "but I want to die rather than go back to Master Pinckney." Set it down once for all, *if the negroes do know their strength*, we should have *an army of Northern soldiers to put down this rebellion.* It would be destroyed by flames, lighted by those who are supposed to be ready to die for its promoters. "Master," said "Billy" to me, not in reply to any question upon my own account, "there are a great many of the rebel soldiers who will not fire a shot at your troops when you advance upon them." "Do you think so?" "Why?" "Indeed, master, I have heard several say so in Master Scriven's company (the Guerillas) and several were shot at the fort, because they were afraid some brought back, declared they would not fight the Union men. None of the 'crackers' will fight you. They had enough men to make a company at work with a rifle and club for the same reason, and more down in the black-hole, at the Fort, all for that very same reason. Master Scriven and Master Dupont used to talk about it and say they were afraid some of our company wouldn't fight either."

The rebels are somewhat improved into English, is the exact language of one of the intelligent mulattoes who had ample opportunity to know, and its sentiments are corroborated in every conversation with the negroes.

Concerning our present doings, under the supervision of Col. Sewell, of the Engineers, a fortification, enclosing a piece of country, (including Fort Walker) about a mile in length by about three-quarters of a mile in width at widest part, is being erected. It will be on approved and scientific principles. There are being rapidly mounted very large guns from the fleet, some of which are drawn from the lighters by mules. The works are being made higher and the ditches broader and deeper than were the walls and ditches of Fort Walker, which is now but a mere point inside the outer works, and there are about 3,000 at work upon them constantly. Immense depots for stores, one of which is over 300 feet in length, are being erected, vast sheds for horses and forage and numerous other buildings for hospital and other purposes are in rapid course of construction or already completed. These, in addition to the buildings found here, the work of the rebels. A large battery is nearly completed. The subject was 15 large 8-inch columbiads, imported hither from New York, so you can see that a permanence is pointed. Who knows but that in the excellent situation for such upon this magnificent border, a city of no mean size may not yet arise to eclipse even Charleston or Savannah? You have learned that a Post Office has been established here, mail matter to be directed via New York. Mr. Jacob Sears, who accompanied the expedition as supercargo of the Vanderbilt, is the Post Master.

The health of the troops is now much improved, and it is rapidly becoming healthy. The entire change of diet and climate, together with the exposure by the vessels and the early part of our stay here, caused much sickness; but the acclimation seems to be about over, and all looks well now.

To instance the contrast between the climate here and in Chicago, I picked oranges and roses on the 1st of December from trees and rose bushes still in full verdure and bloom. Until yesterday it has been too warm, but today it is pleasantly cool. The nights are, however, chilly, and fires are then comfortable. The days are very heavy.

There has as yet been no reinforcement of our army here, but such is expected by us.

Anything of importance happens, you will hear from ——. GLENDOWER.

Appointments.

Editors Chicago Tribune:

I wish to give notice through your paper that I intend to hold a public meeting in behalf of the 39th Regiment Ill. Vols., at Bloomington, on the evening of Saturday, 17th inst., aggravated. I speak on the authority of personal observation. I leave those who can write in secluded districts of Connaught the sacred refreshing, if they are not as fallacious to be true. In Sligo, in Donegal, I hear very different accounts from those which I had been led to believe, and from personal observation in Mayo and Galway, and from letters I have received, I am assured that neither of the kind that is alleged exists. Of course, I am ready to admit, with every gentleman in the room, that there has been a considerable failure in the potato crop, and that food will be dear, but a scarcity of food is not necessarily a famine, and it is very easy to understand the interested motives of some who are anxious to gain public applause by a feigned zeal for the public in circulating about the exaggerated rumors. Now, I must say, so far as myself am concerned, I do not find that these apprehensions are in any way likely to be realized."

☞ The Toledo *Blade*, of the 12th, says there are now standing thirteen hundred eight hundred barrels, in bulk, of freight, principally potatoes, to go forward to a market, in the depot of the Toledo, Wabash and Western Railroad Company, brought in over that line. This is over three hundred car loads, and is the accumulation of two weeks, since the closing of navigation.

☞ The Republicans of Connecticut have called a State Nominating Convention, to meet at Hartford, January 16th, and throw wide open the door for all Union men to participate with them.

☞ The Western Armed Flotilla.—The Quartermaster's Department has asked Congress for an appropriation of $1,600,000 in addition to the $2,100,000 voted at the former session, to meet the expenses incurred for the armed flotilla on the Western waters.

The Beginning of Secession Troubles.

To the Editors of the Chicago Tribune:

It is perhaps time that the public of the Northwest understood some of the finer points connected with the beginning of the rebellion. The report of Adjutant Gen. Fuller, which you have recently published, and the letter of Governor Yates to Colonel Joseph H. Tucker, which the publication thereto would lead me to insert in your paper, or otherwise publish.

Very respectfully, yours &c.,

CAPT. WM. W. BATES,
Co. C, 39th Regt. Ill. Vols.

To Col. JOSEPH H. TUCKER, Commanding Camp Butler:

SIR:—The undersigned beg leave to represent that they are commanders of companies in the 1st *Regiment United States Mounted Rifles*, and that they recruited and formed their companies from various States other than the State of Illinois, that brought them to Chicago to join the regiment in an organization of a peculiar character, viz: as *Mounted Rifles*, and that in joining this regiment it was not their intention to join as Illinois regiment, but to join as United States regiment; and that if any State may of right set up a claim to us as volunteers, we humbly submit it should be the State from which we were severally enrolled as companies and of which we are citizens, and we beg to state that the report of the Adjutant of the State of Illinois to Governor Yates, a copy of which we are classed with the companies of infantry troops, gives much dissatisfaction to our men, and should it go to the public, will give rise to the high authorities of the State of Illinois, to be corrected.

As you, sir, are conversant with all these facts, and, as we suppose, are willing to do us a kindness, we beg you to favor us and our companies so far as to represent these things to the State Adjutant, and ask his attention thereto.

With sentiments of high esteem, we beg leave to subscribe our names.

[Here follow the names of companies from Wisconsin, Capt. GEO. H. MASON, company from Ohio.
Capt. H. MCCREARY, company from Indiana.
Capt. C. D. HOPSON, company from Indiana.
Capt. JOHN LAWSON, company from Indiana.
Capt. CHAS. SHERMAN, company from Michigan.
Capt. J. ASHCROFT, comp. from Ohio and Pa.

REMARKS.—Much opposition towards the recruiting of this regiment has been manifested in all the States outside of Illinois, from which companies have come; and on the ground that those States would get no credit for the men so furnished to the Government. It is attempted in some of those States to repudiate the citizenship of volunteers in this regiment for the purpose of cutting them off from State bounties and pay, past and future; while the fact that want of citizenship in Illinois cuts off the same volunteers from her favors. The best way is for each State acknowledge and claim her own, and thus do no injustice to the interests of the meritorious Fusileers.

Important Army Orders—Camps of Instruction in the States.

Orders have been received at the Adjutant General's office from the Secretary of War, directing—

First. That no more regiments, batteries, or independent companies will be raised by the Governors of States, except upon the special requisition of the War Department.

Those now forming in the various States will be completed under the direction of the respective Governors thereof, unless it be deemed of greater advantage to the service to consolidate the men already raised to the various regiments and independent companies now in the field, to fill up their organizations to the maximum standard prescribed by law.

Second. The recruiting service in the various States, for the volunteer forces already in the service, and for those that may hereafter be received, is placed under the charge of general superintendents for the States respectively, with general depots for the collection and instruction of recruits, as follows, viz:

Maine.—Major J. W. T. Gardiner, U. S. A., at Augusta.

Vermont.—Lieut. Colonel Gouverneur Morris, U. S. A., at Burlington.

New Hampshire.—Lieut. Colonel Seth Eastman, First Infantry, at Concord.

Massachusetts.—Lieut. Colonel H. Day, Second Infantry, at Cambridge.

Rhode Island.—Capt. Wm. Silvery, Eighteenth Artillery, at Providence.

Connecticut.—Col. Wm. Gates, Third Artillery, at New Haven.

New York.—Maj. T. Sprague, First Infantry, at Elmira and Albany.

New Jersey.—Maj. J. L. Gardner, U. S. A., at Trenton.

Pennsylvania.—Capt. R. J. Dodge, Eighth Infantry, at Harrisburg.

Delaware.—Maj. H. B. Judd, U. S. A., at Wilmington.

Maryland.—Lieut. Colonel F. O. Wyse, Fourth Artillery, at Annapolis.

Virginia.—Maj. W. I. Newton, U. S. A., at Wheeling.

Ohio.—Maj. N. C. McRae, U. S. A., at Camp Chase, Columbus.

Kentucky.—Maj. W. H. Stidell, Fifteenth Infantry, at Louisville.

Indiana.—Col. J. S. Simonson, U. S. A., at Indianapolis.

Illinois.—Col. P. Morrison, Eighth Infantry, at Springfield.

Michigan.—Lieut. Colonel R. Backus, Third Infantry, at Detroit.

Wisconsin.—Maj. R. S. Smith, Twelfth Infantry, at Madison.

Missouri.—Capt. A. D. Nelson, Tenth Infantry, at Fort Sheridan.

Iowa.—Capt. D. B. Hendershott, Second Artillery, at Davenport.

Minnesota.—Capt. R. L. E. Bowers, U. S. A., at Jefferson Barracks.

Kansas.—Commanding officer of Fort Leaven worth.

The superintendents detailed, as above, will take charge of the recruiting service in the various States to which they are assigned on the 1st day of January, 1862. They will take post at their general depots, which will be under their immediate command. The superintendent for New York will take post at Albany.

Upon the requisition of the superintendents, a suitable number of volunteer officers, noncommissioned officers and privates will be detailed for duty in the staff departments, and as drill-masters at the respective depots. A disbursing officer of the fund for collecting, drilling, and organizing volunteers will be assigned to each depot, and will be under the direction of the superintendent.

The volunteer officers now on recruiting service will be relieved on the first of January next, and sent to join their regiments, unless directed to report to the superintendents of their respective States. After that time volunteers will be mustered for pay upon the same rolls as those used for the regular army.

Commanding officers of volunteer regiments numbering less than the maximum fix organization fixed by law, will immediately report to the Adjutant General's office, at Washington, the present state of their commands, in order that the Governors of the several States may be called upon to fill up their respective regiments to the standard prescribed.

Liberated Native Africans.

The *Colonization Herald* recapitulates that during the year to April 23, 1861, eight American slavers were overhauled in the high seas, and their living freight deposited in the republic of Liberia. The subjoined table gives the names and dates of the slavers arrested and by what cruisers taken, the number of Africans captured and landed in Liberia, and the mortality which occurred in the intervening period:

Name of Slaver.	Date.	Cruiser.	Captd.	Landed.	Died.	Date.
Wildfire	April 28, 1860	Mohawk	500	500	103	Aug 28
William	May 20 "	Mohawk	500	500	103	Aug 28
Bogota	" 21 "	Crusader	477	342	79	Sept 21
Storm King	Aug 2 "	Saginaw	616	616	79	Sept 21
Erie	" 5 "	Mohican	397	367	30	Aug 21
Storm King	" 6 "	Saginaw	616	616	79	Sept 21
Bonita	Oct 10 "	San Jacinto	516	516	53	Nov 29
Rivanna	Apr 18, 1861	Saratoga	1,018	1,018	104	May 4
			4,039	4,079	931	

The Wildfire, William and Bogota were bounded on the Cuban coast, and brought into Key West, Florida, landing there fourteen hundred and eighty-two recaptured. During the two months of their sojourn at Key West, a portion of the crews of two hundred and ninety-four, and on the voyage from thence, of two hundred and forty-seven. The total of deaths from time of capture until the ships reached Liberia, foots up six hundred and one!

The other slavers were seized in the South African waters, near the Congo country, were proceeded with direct to Monrovia, and the survivors placed in charge of the U. S. Agent, resident in that city. Their numbers were but slightly reduced, except those of the Highflyer. These are reported to have been kept and poorly fed in the barracoons for three months before they were shipped. Consequently they were in worse condition than others. Dr. J. M. Moore, physician to the receptives in Liberia, states that "a majority of them were mere walking skeletons. In handing them, and during the passage from the ship to the shore, three died in the boats, two after reaching the wharf, and five in the hospital, all within a few hours." Such are some of the cruelties of the slave trade.

The ability of Liberia to receive and properly provide for such an influx of heathen Africans, shows an amount of strength and resource which few were prepared to expect.

Freight Business of the Michigan Southern Railroad to Toledo.

[From the Toledo Blade, Saturday Evening.]

At the close of navigation, less than two weeks since, this Company had 4,000 barrels of flour in their freight house, intended for lake shipment from this port. They have now on hand 10,000 barrels of flour, 9,000 boxes of hard bread, 6,000 barrels of pork, 4,000 barrels of high wines, and 650 barrels of lard, piled up in their freight sheds, all of which is to be forwarded by rail to the East, as fast as loading it can be obtained; showing a total of thirty-one thousand one hundred and fifty barrels. This does not include produce, say 300 to 500 barrels of beef and hams. In addition to the above, there are also in the houses of the road 60 cars of miscellaneous freight, consisting principally of hides, broom corn, wheat (in bags) and clover seed—and allowing eight tons to each car, we have in this 480 barrels, three hundred and twenty tons. This road has also brought to this city within a short time past, large quantities of boxed goods, the exact amount of which we cannot give. The past two days, however, the quantity received has been nearly 20,000 pounds. The freight depot at Toledo is now largely since the close of navigation, but in every other respect the business of the line has continued as it was early in the season. The Great Northern depot, where the Company for receiving freight presented along their route; and we are of the opinion that this road has been do

Safes.

A VOICE FROM ILLINOIS!

HERRING'S SAFE

AGAIN TRUE TO ITS MARK

...

CATARRH!!

...COLD IN THE HEAD.

...CATARRH IN THE NOSE.

...

FAIRBANKS' STANDARD SCALES OF ALL KINDS.

Fairbanks & Greene,

NO. 9 LAKE STREET, CHICAGO.

Oil and Lamps.

DITHRIDGE'S XX FLUID

GLASS OVAL

CARBON OIL LAMP

...

...

...

The Tribune.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1861.

THE CITY.

New Year's Address.

The printers of this paper offer TWENTY-FIVE DOLLARS as a Premium for the best Poem to be presented to the readers of the TRIBUNE on the 1st of January. Contributions will be received until the 26th inst., and the reward will be made by competent literary gentlemen.

THE UNION & FAMILY SEWING MACHINE.—The secret of the unending popularity of the Grover & Baker Sewing Machine, rests in the fact that no expense or pains is spared to adopt the latest improvements and inventions that genius and experience suggest.

ALBUMS.—A large supply of elegantly finished Photographic Albums, with a complete assortment of Cartes de Visite, consisting of all the American Generals and the most distinguished personages of Europe and America, has been received by McNally & Co., 81 Dearborn street.

APPOINTMENTS.—Rev. C. S. Mercordia, Chaplain of the 20th regiment Illinois Volunteers, will address the citizens of Bloomington on Tuesday, the 17th, Pontiac on the 18th, and Wilmington on the 20th inst., in behalf of the condition and wants of the troops. Socks, mittens and contributions for a chapel tent will be received.

COL. BELL'S CAVALRY REGIMENT.—Since the consolidation of Col. Bell's cavalry regiment with Maj. Hartmann's Dragoons, a slight change has necessarily been made in the staff. The regimental officers are: Colonel Bell, Lieutenant-Colonel Hartmann, First Major Youst, Second Major, A. C. Ellithorpe, Adjutant Clarkson.

LECTURE BY REV. Z. HUMPHREY.—The fifth lecture of the course in behalf of the Ladies Education Society, will be given this evening at the First Baptist Church, by the Rev. Z. Humphrey. The subject "Americanisms," in the hands of this popular speaker, will draw a large and appreciative audience. Tickets to be had at the door.

SUPERIOR COURT.—In the Superior Court, yesterday, before Judge Goodrich, there was a suit pending in which a new phase of the late stamp tail currency question was presented. This was a case brought by Philo Carpenter, Esq., against the Marine Bank, to secure a deposit of $3,000, made in that institution of Illinois or mixed currency, about the 29th of April last. The question involves directly the effect of the agreement entered into at that time between the bankers and their customers, agreeing to receive a certain number of Illinois bank issues at par during the continuance of the war. A contract, bearing the signatures of the complainant and defendant, to the above effect, was introduced as testimony. The decision will be awaited with considerable interest.

IRON IN THE BLOOD.—To persons unacquainted with physiological chemistry, it may appear strange that Iron should form an element in the human body, and to many it may seem unimportant whether the quantity contained in the system is large or small. The Blood is the Life," for from its vital fluid each tissue of the body receives such elements as are necessary for its nutrition and growth. Bad blood will irritate the heart, will clog the lungs, will stupify the brain, will obstruct the liver, will deaden the intestinal motions, will send its disease-producing elements to every part of the system. Good blood cannot be produced unless the food is properly digested. The BITTER WINE OF IRON is the most powerful invigorator, digestive, tonic cordial known. Prepared only and sold by Smith & Dwyer, druggists and chemists, opposite the Tremont House.

ANOTHER ACCIDENT FROM BURNING FLUID.—On Saturday night last, about ten o'clock, the residents of Fourth Avenue in the vicinity of Polk street, were aroused by agonizing screams which were soon explained by a lady, Mrs. Fox, living at No. 210, rushing out upon the bridewalk enveloped in a sheet of flame. By the presence of mind of Mrs. Fox, together with the assistance of several of the neighbors, the flames were extinguished, but not until she was badly burned. The cause of the accident was the old story—the explosion of a burning fluid lamp which Mrs. Fox was filling. In an instant everything was in flames, the furniture, carpets, and a cradle in which a little child was sleeping. But for the timely arrival of the neighbors, a most fearful accident must have occurred.

We understand and we are glad to learn that it is proposed to introduce an ordinance at the next meeting of the Common Council regulating the sale and use of this diabolical compound. People will never learn caution from accidents, and it is high time for the law to exert its salutary influence.

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY.—At the late annual meeting of the Historical Society held at the residence of Hon. Wm. B. Ogden, the following officers were elected for the ensuing year: President, Walter L. Newberry; Vice Presidents, William B. Ogden and George Manierre; Treasurer, William Blair; Recording Secretary and Librarian, William Barry; Corresponding Secretary, E. B. McGagg. The thanks of the Society were returned to Wm. Ilem A. Brown, Esq., on his retirement, at his own repeated request, from the office of President, held by him since its foundation in 1856.

An address was delivered by the Hon. S. W. Fuller, on the claims of Northwestern history, illustrating the importance of timely and energetic effort to collect and secure its materials for posterity.

Mr. Fuller's address, which was warmly applauded, was followed by the annual report of Mr. Barry, the Secretary, reviewing the transactions of the year. The report shows a receipts in collections as follows: Bound books, 1,416; unbound documents, books and pamphlets, 9,622; periodical files 810; newspaper files, 188; old newspapers, 95; maps and charts, 185; manuscripts, 148; prints, 45; collections, 9; total 13,018. Expended for books, $20.

[After the close of the regular exercises, upon an invitation from Wm. B. Esq., Ogden, the presiding officer, some forcible remarks on the importance of history and historical research were presented by Francis J. Grund, Esq., who also communicated the favorable impressions he had received, on a late visit at the Society's room.

ALLEGED SEDUCTION.—Yesterday morning an interesting case was brought before Justice Davis, of the Police Court, the facts in which, as obtained from the prosecuting witness and others, are mainly as follows: A few months since, Mildred A. Bowles, a girl sixteen years of age, left her home in Belfast, Maine, ostensibly to attend a boarding school at Boston. Possessed of notions more romantic than sensible, she resolved to run away. She started to come to Sheboygan, Wisconsin, where she had an uncle residing. Two months ago she arrived in Milwaukee in company of a Boston gentleman, whose protection she had sought. There their paths diverged; his business calling him to Iowa. His treatment of the girl was honorable in the extreme. After spending a few weeks in Wisconsin, Mildred started for home again, acting, it is supposed upon advice of her uncle.

On the cars, between this city and Milwaukee, she made the acquaintance of a man by the name of Laselle. Under pretence of showing her about the city, he induced her to pause in her journey, and she accordingly stopped at various hotels, and finally engaged rooms at the Stewart House, on State street, whence her new acquaintance finally removed her to the Sefforth House. Here, according to her statement, Laselle accomplished her ruin. A week ago, the landlord of the Stewart House learning the facts, confided them to Superintendent of Police, C. B. Bradley, who immediately set detectives at work upon the case.

A man by the name of Stein, under the assumed name of Hoffman, became connected with the affair, Laselle having absconded the girl, alleging in a letter that he was unable longer to support her. Board was then obtained by Stein for Mildred at the house of one Mrs. Moore, in State street. She was removed from the Sefforth House and conveyed in a hack to this place on Saturday night. Policemen were watching her and awaiting her appearance. She had hardly got inside of the building where a descent was made upon the house and all its inmates arrested.

The unfortunate girl is very young and attractive and speaks French and German fluently. Of the merits of the case, we know nothing further than the statement of the girl. The parties arrested have always borne an excellent reputation and are well known in their community as business men. We hope the examination which takes place on Wednesday will release them of the serious charge made against them.

Stein and Laselle gave bail yesterday in the sum of $200 each for their appearance. Mrs. Moore recognized in $100. Thus the case at present stands.

THE WAR FEELING OF CHANGE.

Views and Opinions of the Merchants.

A Vigorous Policy Advocated

The reception of the news of the threatened ruptures between this country and England, consequent upon the Trent affair, caused universal excitement yesterday throughout the city among all classes of our citizens. The daily session of the Board of Trade was especially marked by an earnestness and unanimity of feeling upon the all-engrossing topic which entirely absorbed the minor questions of bargain and sale. Over six hundred merchants were present on 'Change—the prominent, solid men of the city, representing every department of our heavy business interests. Although considerable excitement prevailed, the prominent characteristic of the meeting were the calm, earnest discussions of this new war-problem, the deep-seated convictions and resolute expressions of the only course left to pursue.

Upon this one point all were unanimous—that it was not for our interest to heedlessly accept this war which England seems, from the tenor of the dispatches, determined to fasten upon us, if it could be honorably avoided. If, however, the law was upon our side and the war was a necessity, then it was our duty to stand by our position to the last extremity. Before accepting the ultimatum of war, the sentiment of the Board favored a submission of the case to the arbitration of some disinterested power—Sweden, Prussia or Italy.

The establishment of the National Armory and of a naval depot at this point were most strongly urged than ever before. It was the universal opinion of the board, that in case of the threatened war, naval stores should be concentrated here and that our propellers, steamers and larger sailing vessels should be properly and securely armed.

One sentiment, the most prominent of all, was freely expressed, advocating a bold and vigorous policy upon the part of the Administration in its dealings with the Southern rebels. Many prominent members of the Board heretofore disagreeing with the views set forth in the TRIBUNE, came boldly up to its standard, and were free to admit that although opposed heretofore, they now agreed with its advanced position. There was no resource left but to rally as a unit, and by vigorous, determined and concerted action, stand by the flag and crush out the rebellion, by the employment of every means recognized in civilized warfare.

The Soldiers' Aid Festival.

The Soldiers' Aid Festival, notices of which have from time to time appeared in our columns, commenced yesterday, and was inaugurated with gratifying success. The ladies, it seems, have been around the city gathering up provisions, which have been generously contributed by citizens, and they are now able to announce that they are prepared to feed *one thousand persons* daily for the remainder of the week. Their tables are set at usual meal times in the lower apartments of Bryan Hall. Dinner may be obtained there any hour, from 12 M. until 4 P. M.

On Wednesday evening comes the Grand Operatic Concert by Madame Matilda Crovelli, and a Grand Troupe, on which occasion some of the choicest selections from Italian Opera will be performed. This is done for the benefit of the same fund. Tickets for this occasion have been reduced to fifty cents, that all may have a chance to attend, and at the same time contribute to a deserving charity. The managers are taking every means in their power to make this fair a substantial benefit for the sustenance of sick soldiers and their families, and the amount that thus shall be furnished now rests with the Chicago public.

A Bold Operation.

On Saturday night last, the army chest of the U. S. Paymaster, John H. Kinzie, which had been placed temporarily in a hall of the upper story of his residence on Michigan street, was mysteriously spirited away, and when wanted could not be found. This was a heavy loss in more respects than one—the chest itself weighing nearly three hundred pounds, and containing gold and silver coin to the amount of $6200. Information of the robbery was conveyed to the Central Police station, and competent officers were detailed by Mr. Bradley to investigate the case. The chest was found on Sunday buried in the stable yard in the rear of Mr. Kinzie's residence, the lock invisible, and the funds, of course, unmolested. Traces left by the thief in the gravel walk, he being unable to carry the load without disturbing the earth with it, and the prints of the fall from the act.

The establishment of the National Armory and of a naval depot at this point were most strongly urged than ever before. It was the universal opinion of the board, that in case of the threatened war, naval stores should be concentrated here and that our propellers, steamers and larger sailing vessels should be properly and securely armed.

2d. Have the Mayor and Comptroller power to issue the bonds and retire the scrip and other indebtedness of the city, without the action of the Common Council, or must that body take some action upon the reports made to them by the Comptroller and Commissioners, before the bonds can be issued? Is the duty of issuing imposed directly upon the Mayor and Comptroller, or is it made to depend upon the action of the Common Council?

[After considering the nature of the act to be done, and establishing the fact that the Council have no power to re-investigate the claims passed upon by the Claims Commissioners, the Court proceeded:]

The conclusions, then, to which those views lead are, 1st, That the holders of claims passed upon by the Commissioners are acquiring with the holders of scrip and other floating indebtedness, to be paid out of the proceeds of the bonds authorized to be issued by Sec. 34. That the action of the Commissioners does not depend on the action of the Council for its finality, and can neither be directly reviewed nor set aside by that body; 3d, That the duty of issuing bonds and retiring indebtedness is imposed in the Mayor and Comptroller exclusively, and in case of refusal by them to act, compelled to perform it by mandamus if no other specific remedy exists. It is not sufficient that the party must have a remedy at law in this case for the recovery of his demand. Unless there is some other remedy by which the party can exercise the right granted by this act, then there is no other specific and adequate remedy within the contemplation of this principle; and by the familiar rule that *ubi jus ibi remedium* is demand, it by necessary implication, depends in no degree upon the assent or dissent of the functionaries. If, therefore, the powers conferred by this act are unconstitutional, no objection can be urged to the act on the ground of impolicy.

Is the power given to the commissioners judicial? The statute in substance provides that the Mayor and Comptroller shall have power to issue and negotiate bonds, and with the proceeds retire a certain portion of the floating indebtedness, including the kind of claims held by the relators in this application. The only condition attached to their assignment out of this fund is that they shall be first passed upon and adjusted by the Commissioners appointed by the act. The general rights of the creditor are not made to depend upon a presentation of his claim and his allowance by the Board. He may present it or not as he pleases, and his omission to do so can work no prejudice to his legal right to seek redress in a suit in the courts. If, however, he seeks satisfaction out of the fund contemplated by the law, he must first procure the adjustment of his claim by the Commissioners. The privilege, conferred by the act, is in the nature of a gratuity and the party can only acquire it by a compliance with the law. He has no right to demand it upon any other condition. Before that right attaches, the law may be repealed. What effect a disallowance of his claim by the Commissioners would have upon his rights further than to debar him from payment out of the fund, may presently appear.

It is manifest, therefore, that the power conferred upon the Commissioners is in no sense judicial; that it is the mere exercise of authority to audit and adjust certain claims and submit to it by the voluntary election of the parties, viz: the public on the one side, and the claimant on the other. Before it no party is compelled to present his claim to make such submission. It is unquestioned for the Legislature in their wisdom to modify the charter by the creation of this board, and to make the payment of claims out of a particular fund depend upon their adjustment by them. No greater legal objection exists to the exercise of legislative power in this way than to that by which the Office of Comptroller was created and vested with powers. The only question, if any, is that that power may be made to depend, in part, upon the effect of the decision upon the right of the claimant. In the case of the Comptroller it is would be claimed that a discretion exists on account of his name being connected with the office, between the parties as against the claimant; whilst in adverse decisions of the Commissioners might be claimed to have the effect of depriving the party of a remedy of law under some mistake of the law or the misconstruction or misapplication of testimony, could be shown. This distinction, if it has any foundation, can only stand upon the assumption that there has been a voluntary submission of the claim to the Commissioners by the claimant, and that his act is no doing, cannot be considered in establishing a voluntary submission of the Commissioners on both sides to adjust their differences. How, so far as any legal consequences can flow from this distinction is prejudicial to the rights of the corporation, it is of no practical importance. Looking at it in this view it would be conceded by the action of the Commissioners and the decision could only be impeached for fraud or mistake. It is, however, really unnecessary to strictly define the powers of the Commissioners, the city of Chicago is in effect deprived of the right of trial by jury. Both these objections may be considered together, as both imply an exercise of judicial power. The legislature has absolute control over municipal corporations to create, change, modify or destroy them at pleasure. The constitution contains no restriction; expressly or impliedly upon their action in such cases. Hence the creation of a corporation or the subsequent modification of its charter by the Legislature, depends in no degree upon the assent or dissent of the inhabitants. It, therefore, the powers conferred by this act are unconstitutional, no objection can be urged to the act on the ground of impolicy.

Is the power given to the commissioners judicial? The statute in substance provides that the Mayor and Comptroller shall have power to issue and negotiate bonds, and with the proceeds retire a certain portion of the floating indebtedness, including the kind of claims held by the relators in this application. The only condition attached to their assignment out of this fund is that they shall be first passed upon and adjusted by the Commissioners appointed by the act. The general rights of the creditor are not made to depend upon a presentation of his claim and his allowance by the Board. He may present it or not as he pleases, and his omission to do so can work no prejudice to his legal right to seek redress in a suit in the courts. If, however, he seeks satisfaction out of the fund contemplated by the law, he must first procure the adjustment of his claim by the Commissioners. The privilege, conferred by the act, is in the nature of a gratuity and the party can only acquire it by a compliance with the law. He has no right to demand it upon any other condition. Before that right attaches, the law may be repealed. What effect a disallowance of his claim by the Commissioners would have upon his rights further than to debar him from payment out of the fund, may presently appear.

It is manifest, therefore, that the power conferred upon the Commissioners is in no sense judicial; that it is the mere exercise of authority to audit and adjust certain claims and submit to it by the voluntary election of the parties, viz: the public on the one side, and the claimant on the other. Before it no party is compelled to present his claim to make such submission. It is unquestioned for the Legislature in their wisdom to modify the charter by the creation of this board, and to make the payment of claims out of a particular fund depend upon their adjustment by them. No greater legal objection exists to the exercise of legislative power in this way than to that by which the Office of Comptroller was created and vested with powers. The only question, if any, is that that power may be made to depend, in part, upon the effect of the decision upon the right of the claimant. In the case of the Comptroller it is would be claimed that a discretion exists on account of his name being connected with the office, between the parties as against the claimant; whilst an adverse decision of the Commissioners might be claimed to have the effect of depriving the party of a remedy of law under some mistake of the law or the misconstruction or misapplication of testimony, could be shown. This distinction, if it has any foundation, can only stand upon the assumption that there has been a voluntary submission of the claim to the Commissioners by the claimant, and that his act is no doing, cannot be considered in establishing a voluntary submission of the Commissioners on both sides to adjust their differences. How, so far as any legal consequences can flow from this distinction is prejudicial to the rights of the corporation, it is of no practical importance. Looking at it in this view it would be conceded by the action of the Commissioners and the decision could only be impeached for fraud or mistake. It is, however, really unnecessary to strictly define the powers of the Commissioners, the city of Chicago is in effect deprived of the right of trial by jury. Both these objections may be considered together, as both imply an exercise of judicial power. The legislature has absolute control over municipal corporations to create, change, modify or destroy them at pleasure. The constitution contains no restriction, expressly or impliedly upon their action in such cases. Hence the creation of a corporation or the subsequent modification of its charter by the Legislature, depends in no degree upon the assent or dissent of the inhabitants. If